

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15

NSC-05 L-03 SP-02 /063 W

----- 018651

R 232316Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6657

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2893

E.O. 11652: XGDS (1)

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJECT: AIR AFRIQUE

REF: STATE 285700

1. DCM DISCUSSED AIR AFRIQUE WITH MAURITANIAN DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION, KEBIR OULD SELLAMY, ON NOVEMBER 23. SELLAMY SAID GIRM RELATIONS WITH AIR AFRIQUE ARE GOOD IN SPITE OF MINOR BROUHAHA THAT ERUPTED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. (AIR AFRIQUE CHANGED ITS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES FOR ITS TWICE WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO AND FROM NOUAKCHOTT WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING PERMISSION OF GIRM AUTHOC OHES. IN PIQUE, GIRM CANCELLED ONE AIR AFRIQUE FLIGHT. THIS
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PROBLEM HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN RESOLVED; AIR AFRIQUE

NOW SERVES NOUAKCHOTT MONDAY MORNINGS AND THURSDAY EVENINGS). SELLAMY SAID AIR AFRIQUE, DUE TO THE JOINT NATURE OF ITS OWNERSHIP, IS IN EFFECT, A MAURITANIAN "NATIONAL AIRLINE".

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT GIRM POSITION ON FIFTH FREEDOM FOR PAN AMERICAN SELLAMY, ALTHOUGH KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT PROBLEM, SIDESTEPPTED QUESTION. HE SAID MAURITANIA PLAYS SMALL ROLE IN AIR AGRIQUE, EMPHASIZING THAT GIRM IIS NEITHER WELL REPRESENTED NOT INFLUENTIAL IN AIR AFRIQUE BOARD ROOM. HE ADDED THAT MAURITANIA TENDS TO FOLLOW LEAD OF MORE IMPORTANT COUNTRIES SUCH AS IVORY COAST AND IMPLIED THAT THIS WILL HOLD TRUE IN CASE OF FIFTH FREEDOM FOR PAN AMERICAN. HE ALSO ASKED RHETORICALLY IF UTA IS EMINENCE GRISE BEHIND PAN AMERICAN'S FIFTH FREEDOM PROBLEM. SELLAMY CONCLUDESBRIEF DISCUSSION BY REEMPHASIZING MINIMAL WEIGHT MAURITANIA CARRIES VIS-A-VIS AIR AFRIQUE.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
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